

which may carry with it the required substance, either diffused in the air or absorbed in its pores. That which I have found well suited to the purpose is the pollen of the lycopodium or club-moss, which has been allowed to imbibe as much as it would take up of a saturated solution of nitrate of silver, or of sulphate of copper, or the two combined, and then carefully dried, and reduced again to an impalpable powder. Mr. Squire has made me some which, in two grains and a half, contains one grain of nitrate of silver, and another which in five grains contains one of nitrate of silver and two of sulphate of copper. The patient should introduce into his mouth, as far as he can without choking, a well-dried glass funnel, and draw in his breath strongly, whilst he himself, or a second party, dusts the powder in a dense cloud into the large end with an ordinary nursery puff-ball. If the dust is raised by an attendant, the patient can indicate the moment he inspires by raising his hand.

To obviate the necessity for withdrawing the funnel after each inhalation, to prevent the dust being blown about the room, an apparatus with a double valve and a closed powder-box may be used, which allows the dust to pass inwards only; but the necessary employment of metal makes the machine less agreeable than the more awkward but cleaner-looking and less formidable glass.

There is usually a slight degree of coughing excited by the dusty vehicle, but not of such moment as to prevent an immediate repetition of the experiment. This is certainly an inconvenience, but it seems a much smaller one than that which attends the introduction of a sponge into the larynx, as has been recommended. The spasm excited by this is distressing to the operator and painful to the patient, and prevents its employment in slighter cases, where the remedy appears to both as bad as the disease. Moreover, the operation is a very difficult one, requiring a rapid accuracy, a spirited tenderness of touch, as artists call it, which is the lot of few, and is seldom retained at that period of life when the intellect is most matured, but when the brush, the burin, and the scalpel, are handled with more judgment indeed, but with less elegance and delicacy.—*London Medical Gazette*.

REMARKS ON CONGESTIVE FEVER.

BY C. A. HATHWELL, M.D., OF VIRGINIA, CASS COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

CONGESTIVE fever is one of the most formidable diseases that medical men have to encounter, and imperatively demands the soundest judgment, watchfulness, promptness and energy on the part of the attending physician. It is not my intention to furnish a treatise on this disease, but to state, in as concise a manner as possible, the result of treatment in some cases that came under my care.

I shall confine myself to such articles as I have found most serviceable. According to circumstances I have generally commenced with an active cathartic. Purgatives clear the alimentary canal of all morbid accumulations and relieve congestion. To obtain their full effect, I ad-

minister them daily. I usually employ calomel and jalap, with a small portion of tartarized antimony, worked off with oil or the neutral salts.

The bowels are generally loaded. The patient has strong sensations of internal heat, and there is also considerable gastric distress. These circumstances seem imperatively to call for such evacuations, and every practitioner knows how much relief and comfort is afforded by them. No one conversant with the *modus operandi* of purges will fear their producing debility. At this period they not only relieve the stomach, but also congestion of the liver, head, and other important organs, upon the principle of revulsion. Nothing is better established than that, when the alimentary canal is oppressed with accumulations of feculent matter, the evacuation of this matter relieves the irritation of the system and adds new vigor to the body. As one of the auxiliaries, I place great confidence in cold applications; sponging the surface is a favorite remedy. I employ water, vinegar and water, brandy, &c. I do not believe they act by merely lessening the heat of the body; that they operate to a certain extent in this way, I think certain, but they are more beneficial from the positive healthy action they impart to the system. As soon as practicable, I place my patient under the influence of large and repeated doses of quinine—it is, in fact, the only remedy we can rely on with confidence. But in certain cases during the cold stage, when I have found all the external applications, together with the most powerful and diffusible stimulants used internally, fail to bring about a re-action, I have found the use of ice to produce the most salutary effects. When I have met my patient in a state of great jactitation, complaining of intense internal heat, insatiable thirst, oppression in respiration, cold surface, pulseless, and with all the symptoms characteristic of this disease, I have found ice all-powerful in producing re-action and restoring an equilibrium. My plan has been to break the ice into small pieces, set it by the bed-side of my patient, and force him to swallow it as fast as possible until the stomach is literally filled with small pieces of it. The revulsive influence of ice has, in several instances, perfectly surprised me; but when we reflect upon the pathology of this disease, the congestion of the stomach and the great central accumulation and engorgement of the heart, liver and large veins, the *modus operandi* may be easily made out. As soon as re-action is established, I look upon the case as completely under the control and management of quinine. In protracted cases of collapse, when the blood has become vitiated for the want of oxygenation, perhaps there is but little reliance to be placed in any remedy.—*North Western Medical and Surgical Journal*.

THE REMOTE AND IMMEDIATE CAUSES OF CHOLERA.

Extract from a Lecture delivered February 15, 1849, by N. WILLIAMS, M.D., of Phoenix, N. Y., and communicated by him for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

THE idea that the cholera is contagious, and is thus communicated from one person to another, and that precautionary measures are of little importance, has long since been abandoned by those most acquainted with